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Claims 1, 3, 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Mutus et al. (Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm., Vol. 112, NO.3, 941-947, 1983). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons presented herein, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action has not provided a *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to claim 1 (and claims 3, 4 and 10 are dependent upon claim 1). Anticipation requires that each of the claimed elements is disclosed in the references (see MPEP 2131; and Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed.Cir. 1987)). Claim 1 recites a "...a chemically modified mutant enzyme with one or more amino acid residues...replaced by cysteine residues..." Mutus et al. do not teach an enzyme with one or more amino acid residues replaced by cysteine residues. Accordingly, Mutus et al. do not teach all of the claimed elements, and a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not provided in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections as applied to claim 1 (and also to dependent claims 3, 4 and 10) are respectfully requested.


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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments, as well as the remarks, the Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-7544.

An action on the merits and a Notice of Allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



H. Thomas Anderton, Jr.
Registration No. 40,895

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Genencor International, Inc.
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel: 650-846-7544
Fax: 650-845-6504

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